

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the Sequence Listing filed November 13, 2002, with the substitute Sequence Listing filed herewith. A computer readable form (CRF) copy of Sequence Listing also accompanies this response.

Please replace paragraph 0047 with the following amended paragraph:

The invention also provides phytase encoding polynucleotides having a nucleotide sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:7, and having a modified nucleotide sequence selected from nucleotide 389 is G; 390 is A; nucleotide 437 is T; 438 is G; 439 is G; 470 is C; 472 is T; 476 is T; 477 is G; 478 is T; 689 is G; 690 is A; 691 is G; 728 is T; 729 is A; 730 is T; 863 is T; 864 is G; 1016 is G, or any combination thereof. Further, the invention provides a polynucleotide having a nucleotide sequence substantially identical to SEQ ID NO:7, and having a modified nucleotide sequence selected from nucleotide 389 is G and 390 is A [[(SEQ ID NO:5)]]; nucleotide 437 is T, 438 is G and 439 is G [[(SEQ ID NO:6)]]; 470 is C and 472 is T; 476 is T, 477 is G, and 478 is T; 689 is G, 690 is A and 691 is G; 728 is T, 729 is A, and 730 is T; 863 is T and 864 is G; 1016 is G, or any combination thereof. The later sequence is exemplified in SEQ ID NO:9 and the corresponding amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:10.

Please replace paragraph 0241 with the following amended paragraph:

Examples of a variant phytase polynucleotide sequence include sequences substantially as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7, wherein the polynucleotide has a nucleotide sequence as set forth in a) SEQ ID NO:9; b) SEQ ID NO:9 wherein all Ts are Us (RNA); wherein the expression of the phytase-encoding nucleic acid leads to the production of said substantially pure phytase enzyme; and c) SEQ ID NO:7, wherein 389 is G; 390 is A; nucleotide 437 is T; 438 is G; 439 is G; 470 is C; 72 is T; 476 is T; 477 is G; 478 is T; 689 is G; 690 is A; 691 is G; 728 is T; 729 is A; 730 is T; 863 is T; 864 is G; 1016 is G, or any combination thereof. More specifically, with respect to part c), the invention provides a nucleotide sequence substantially

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identical to SEQ ID NO:7, and having a modified nucleotide sequence selected from nucleotide 389 is G and 390 is A [(SEQ ID NO:5)]; nucleotide 437 is T, 438 is G and 439 is G [(SEQ ID NO:6)]; 470 is C and 472 is T; 476 is T, 477 is G, and 478 is T; 689 is G, 690 is A and 691 is G; 728 is T, 729 is A, and 730 is T; 863 is T and 864 is G; 1016 is G, or any combination thereof.